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Art Unit 3733

PROPOSED CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A bone fixation device for retaining cervical vertebra of a spinal column in a desired spatial relationship, comprising:

a first member connectable to a first vertebra;

a second member connectable to a second vertebra and interconnected with the first member, wherein the first and second members are movable relative to one another across a range of motion;

at least one elongate rod interconnecting the first member to the second member;

an adjustor member that transitions between a first state wherein the adjustor member is fixed relative to the first member and movable relative to the second member, and a second state wherein the adjustor member is fixed relative to the second member and movable relative to the first member, wherein the range of motion between the first member and second member spans a first, limited distance when the adjustor member is in the first state, and wherein the range of motion between the first member and second member spans a second, limited distance when the adjustor member is in the second state.

2. A device as in claim 1, wherein the first distance is less than the second distance.

3. A device as in claim 1, further comprising at least one elongate rod interconnecting the first member and the second member.

4. A device as in claim 1, wherein the range of motion is linear.

5. A device as in claim 1, wherein the first member includes a distraction screw coupler that permits the first member or the first vertebra to be coupled to a distraction screw while the first member is connected to the first vertebra.

6. A device as in claim 1, wherein the distraction screw coupler comprises a borehole sized to receive therethrough a distraction screw.

7. A device as in claim 6, wherein at least a portion of the borehole can mate with a portion of the distraction screw.

8. A device as in claim 1, wherein the first member includes a modular coupler that can mate with a second bone fixation device.

9. A device as in claim 1, wherein the range of motion is curved.

10. (Amended) A bone fixation device for retaining vertebra of a spinal column in a desired spatial relationship, comprising:

a first member connectable to a first vertebra;

a second member connectable to a second vertebra and interconnected with the first member, the first and second members being movable relative to one another;

at least one elongate rod interconnecting the first member to the second member;

an adjustor member that can be adjusted to vary the degree of movement of the first member relative to the second member, wherein the adjustor member adjusts between a first state wherein the adjustor member is fixed relative to the first member and movable relative to the second member, and a second state wherein the adjustor member is fixed relative to the second member and movable relative to the first member, wherein the degree of movement spans a first range when the adjustor member is in ~~an~~ the first state and wherein the

degree of movement spans a second range when the adjustor member is in ~~a~~ the second state.

11. (Amended) A bone fixation device for retaining vertebra of a spinal column in a desired spatial relationship, comprising:

a first member connectable to a first vertebra;

a second member connectable to a second vertebra and interconnected with the first member, the first and second members being movable relative to one another;

at least one elongate rod interconnecting the first member to the second member;

means for adjusting the range of motion of the first member relative to the second member, wherein the range of motion spans a first distance or a second distance and wherein the means for adjusting is adapted to transition between a first state wherein the means for adjusting is fixed relative to the first member and movable relative to the second member, and a second state wherein the means for adjusting is fixed relative to the second member and movable relative to the first member.

12. (Amended) A bone fixation device for retaining vertebra of a spinal column in a desired spatial relationship, comprising:

a first plate member connectable to a first vertebra;

a second plate member connectable to a second vertebra and interconnected with the first member, wherein the second plate member includes a distraction screw coupler that permits the second plate member ~~or the second vertebra~~ to be ~~coupled to~~ mounted over a distraction screw having a shank embedded into the second vertebra while the second plate member is connected to the second vertebra.

13. A device as in claim 12, wherein the first plate member includes a distraction screw coupler that permits the first plate member ~~or the first vertebra~~

to be ~~coupled to~~ mounted over a distraction screw while the first plate member is connected to the first vertebra.

14. A device as in claim 12, wherein the distraction screw coupler comprises a borehole sized to receive therethrough a distraction screw.

15. A device as in claim 14, wherein at least a portion of the borehole can mate with a portion of the distraction screw.

16. A device as in claim 12, wherein the second plate member includes a modular coupler attachable to a second bone fixation device.

17. A device as in claim 12, wherein the first and second plate members are movable relative to one another across a range of motion, and further comprising:

an adjustor member that transitions between an first state and a second state, wherein the range of motion between the first plate member and second plate member spans a first distance when the adjustor member is in the first state, and wherein the range of motion between the first plate member and second plate member spans a second distance when the adjustor member is in the second state.

18. A bone fixation device for retaining vertebra of a spinal column in a desired spatial relationship, comprising:

a first plate member connectable to a first vertebra;

a second plate member connectable to a second vertebra and interconnected with the first plate member, wherein the second plate member includes an interface configured to ~~be modularly attached to a second bone fixation device~~ mate with a complimentary-shaped interface of a third plate member.

19. A device as in claim 18, wherein the interface comprises a borehole extending through the first plate member, the borehole configured to mate with at least a portion of the third plate member ~~second bone fixation device~~.

20. A device as in claim 18, wherein the borehole is configured to receive a distraction screw such that the second plate member or the first vertebra can be coupled to a distraction screw while the second plate member is connected to the second vertebra.

21. A device as in claim 18, wherein the first member includes an interface configured to mate with a fourth plate member ~~be modularly attached to a third bone fixation device~~.